

City College News

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

JUNE/JULY 1986

Women outnumber men in part-time courses — survey

Women are outnumbering men in part-time courses for the first time in the College's history.

They made up 51 per cent of the 30,000 people who enrolled in continuing education courses this year, a recent survey indicates.

That's a significant increase from 1979 when women accounted for only 38 per cent of part-time students.

The increase may be related to a larger number of women actively pursuing careers.

"Women are here for the same reason as men. They're here to upgrade and refine their professional skills," says Continuing Education and Marketing Dean Bob Struthers.

Women outnumbered men in all Divisions but Technology and Graphic Arts, and they made up more than 80 per cent of students in Health Sciences and Community Services courses.

The survey — which asked 1,850 students from all campuses and all Divisions 12 pages of questions about their backgrounds and opinions — also found other changes in the part-time student population.

The number of part-time students who live in the City of Toronto increased from 1979 as did the number of students taking courses related to their work. A majority of students also said they took courses at George Brown because of unique content or certificate requirements and 90 per cent said they would recommend their course to friends.

"In our view this was the definitive quality question," says Struthers.

Survey results indicate the need to develop course offerings and services for particular groups such as senior citizens and women, and refine marketing, information and registration techniques, he says.

Continuing Education students are important to George Brown because of their numbers and contribution of 15 per cent of College's annual operating budget.

"It's the largest group of people whose lives are affected by the College," Struthers says.



HELPING HANDS — Egged on by their parents, children rush to cross the finish line of a race at the first College-wide staff picnic at Centre Island on May 30. Other events included sack and three-legged races, egg and water balloon tosses and a hamburger and hot dog barbeque. More than 320 people attended the event.

Nursing program revamped, extended

George Brown's largest post-secondary program — Diploma Nursing — has been completely revamped for the first time.

The revised program is intended to better prepare students for licensing exams and their professional roles, says instructor Sue Verbure, who spent the last nine months as full-time moderator for the re-organization.

Starting this September, the following changes will be incorporated into the program, which is the largest of its kind in Ontario:

- The program will be divided into six semesters spread over three academic years with all students taking a normal summer vacation. In the past, the five-semester program was divided into two years lasting ten months and a four-month pre-graduation practical assignment. The extra semester will allow students to absorb academic material at a slower rate and find work related to their studies in the summer. "We've decompressed the program. Now students will work at a less

frantic pace and will have more time for their personal lives," says Verbure.

- Students will spend less time in lectures and more in independent, self-directed learning and problem-solving. This change in teaching methods is intended to take advantage of the working experience and relative maturity of nursing students. A study of enrolment found that most students in the program were between 20 and 30 years old and had worked for a number of years before coming to College.

- Practical work in hospitals — which until now has taken up the same proportion of each semester in the program — will now be limited in the first year and concentrated more heavily in the last. This shift will mean students will have a stronger theoretical background and more confidence when they do face the rigours of nursing for the first time.

- Initial practical work will stress health assessment and will take place in daycare centres or other community-based health care facilities rather than

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Comment by Doug Light

Studies reveal enrolment shifts

The common image of a "typical" community college student as a 19 or 20-year-old who recently graduated from high school is one that is becoming increasingly inaccurate at George Brown.

While enrolment by students of this age group and educational background has increased greatly in the last decade — due to the large number of new post-secondary programs — statistically our student population is older and far more diverse.

In fact, recent internal studies demonstrate the need for periodic research to determine the changing composition and needs of our student population.

An extensive survey of continuing education students — which is our numerically-largest group with more than 30,000 students a year — had dramatic findings that challenge many common perceptions of part-time students.

For instance, it found that — for the first time in the College's history — women outnumber men in part-time courses.

The implications of this information are obvious — the College's course offerings, services and marketing can be tailored to meet the particular needs of this growing group of students.

A recent analysis by the Health Sciences staff of the age and educational background of students enrolled in the Diploma Nursing program had equally interesting results.

It found that a significant proportion of nursing students had been working for up to ten years before coming to College. In fact, students entering the program immediately after secondary school were statistically the third largest group after people in their 20s, and people in their 30s.

That information has played a vital role in the re-organization of the program. Students — who were found to be self-motivating — will now be more actively involved in the learning process.

As these studies demonstrate, it is vital that we have an accurate and up-to-date understanding of our student population. We need to test our assumptions about who our students are — and correct them when necessary.



Photo: Neil McCullery

LOVE-ALL — *The gym at St. James may seem like a strange place to start a courtship. But that's where part-time tennis instructor Bernie MacPherson met his match in Susan Wieland, who enrolled in his introductory evening course in 1983. The couple started dating after the course ended and were married in mid-June. "I get private lessons now," says Wieland.*

Nursing program has a new focus

Continued from page 1.

in the chronic care wards of hospitals.

- While the program will retain its theoretical framework and course hour allocations, its orientation will now emphasize a more holistic approach to health. Students will be taught about health first and then introduced to increasingly debilitating forms of illness, Verbarg says.

- The revised program will also emphasize a more active decision-making role for the nurse — centred around a theory of nursing diagnosis — in the medical community. "The focus is on the role of the nurse, not just the nurse as assistant to the doctor," says Diploma Nursing Chairperson Heidi Yamashita.

- The program's government-regulated annual intake of 360 students will now be split evenly between start dates in September and January rather than a heavy fall and light winter intake.

Because of the sweeping changes, the revised program will be run parallel to the existing one for the next two-and-a-half years until all current students graduate.

Preparation for the revised program started three years ago with extended discussions among staff, administrators and advisory committee members on the philosophical direction of the program.

After the program's theoretical framework was endorsed last year, a steering committee and working groups on evalua-

tion, instructional design, graduate competency and quality assurance were established among the Department's 70 staff.

"Almost all the faculty have been actively involved," says Verbarg.

The process of program revision — including opinion polls among students and faculty, and voting on points of contention — resulted in a great deal of discussion and dialogue among staff, says Verbarg.

"I think we are pioneers," says Yamashita.

AV has video hit

George Brown's audio-visual staff has turned steel into gold.

Its video about the College's Metal Fabrication Technology department has won three top prizes in recent provincial and national audio-visual competitions.

The four and a half minute production is one of a series about the Electro-Mechanical Department that are being shown at high schools and trade fairs.

The video won first prize in awards given at the annual conference of the Committee on Learning Resources at Geneva Park in late May, then it won two prizes in the annual awards of the Association for Media and Technology in Education in Canada (AMTEC) in Toronto in mid-June.

One in five fail simple hearing test

One in five people at George Brown may have impaired hearing, a Canadian Hearing Society screening indicates.

Just under 20 per cent of the 302 people who voluntarily took a simple hearing test in late May failed, said test co-ordinator Katherine Phenix.

While they may be suffering from temporary loss from a variety of causes, many of those people may have permanent hearing loss that limits their comprehension of normal conversation, she said.

The five-minute test — conducted at St. James, Kensington and Casa Loma — was designed to detect hearing loss in the sound frequencies used in speech.

The 20 per cent figure is an average for all age groups. While just five per cent of 20 to 29-year-olds who took the test failed, half the people over 50 failed and 59 per cent of the people over 60 failed, Phenix said.

But the test is not the final word on hearing loss.

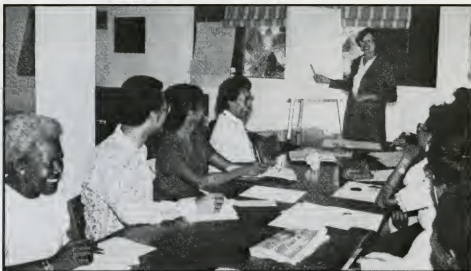
People who failed the test — or anyone else who suspects they have hearing loss — should see their doctor for further tests or contact the Hearing Society at 964-9595.

Two new co-op programs set up

Two new co-operative educational programs have been approved by the federal government for funding under the Canadian Jobs Strategy program.

Immigrant Women Into Ceramics is a 40-week program that will train 16 immigrant women — who speak Portuguese, Spanish or Italian — to work as junior ceramic technicians. Training will start this fall in the ceramics department at Casa Loma and the Davenport/Dufferin Community Centre, the project's co-sponsor located at 1485 Davenport Rd. The women will also get training in life skills, English instruction, and work experience.

Paracare Program is a 40-week program designed to train 18 women to work as health care aides/home support workers. They will earn both College certificates through the program. Instruction is split between the Community Services Division at Nightingale and the Parachute Community Employment Development Centre at 44 Blevins Place — the organization co-sponsoring the program.



Staff Development Officer Pat Stanojevic leads a seminar during a recent teaching visit to CAST College in Kingston, Jamaica. George Brown is expanding its ties with educational institutions on the Caribbean island.

Our Jamaica connection is growing

George Brown is developing stronger ties with institutions and individuals on the sunny Caribbean island of Jamaica.

Co-operative educational projects with the College of Arts, Sciences and Technology (CAST) in Kingston, and Montego Bay Community College are increasing, and an alumni association of former George Brown hospitality students has been formed in the resort area of Montego Bay.

The International Bureau of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) recently made George Brown the institution responsible for a two-year project with CAST designed to teach entrepreneurial skills. It will involve seven Canadians flying south.

The College's ties with CAST started five years ago when Electro-Mechanical staff went to Jamaica for teaching terms. Since then, numerous trips and exchanges have taken place — most recently the visit to George Brown this summer of CAST Vice-Principal Gloria Hamilton and teacher Patricia Matheson.

The ties between the two institutions developed quite naturally, according to CAST Principal Dr. Alfred Sangster.

"We have quite a lot in common. We have the idea of the Canadian community college in part of what we're doing."

CAST has a full-time staff of 160 and offers day and evening courses to 3,500 students a year.

Although CAST has worked with a number of Canadian community colleges under ACCC projects, stronger ties with George Brown seem to have developed, he says.

"I think there is the possibility of expansion."

International Development Manager Alex O'Reilly says while the College earns money for operating projects, the rewards for George Brown are not just financial.

"We look at it as another opportunity for staff enrichment."

In an independent development, George Brown's Hospitality Division is admitting graduates of Montego Bay Community College's 2-year Food and Beverage Management program into the second year of three of its diploma programs.

The special arrangement — which also includes George Brown staff teaching special courses in Jamaica — has encouraged a dozen graduates of the College in Montego Bay to form an alumni association.

Events

Aug. 1 — College closes at 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 4 — Civic Holiday — College closed.

Aug. 18 — 29 The Professional Development Office presents its Instructional Effectiveness Program for new instructors. Contact Yvette Jones (ext. 3294) for details.

Sept. 2 — First day of classes for many programs.

Sept. 21 — United Way Walkathon. Details in subsequent issues.

Names in the News



Photo: Neil McGillivray

Caretaking and stores staff were recently presented with awards for excellence and dedication at ceremonies at St. James, Kensington and Casa Loma.

Top row from left: Judes Mendes of College St. Caretaking staff won the Admiral Sanitation Award, Maria Kourtis of Kensington Caretaking staff won the Industrial Supply House Award, Kensington Caretaking Group Leader Maurice Fleming won both the Campus Manager's Award and the Dean's Award, Ron Sarrazin of Kensington Stores won the Campus Manager's Award, Antoni Slomiac of Kensington Caretaking staff won the Director of Physical Resources' Award, and Dave

MacDougall of St. James Stores won the Campus Manager's Award.

Bottom row from left: Jimmy Sadler (left) and Gus Pagos of the St. James Caretaking staff won Campus Manager's Awards, Boguslaw Kwiatkowski of Casa Loma Caretaking staff won the Director of Physical Resources' Award, Michael Panagiotakis of Casa Loma Caretaking staff won the Campus Manager's Award, Casa Loma Caretaking Group Leader Lorenzo Mariconda won a special award, and Dennis Olesky of Central Stores at Casa Loma won a Campus Manager's Award (accepted in his absence by colleague Grant Krisman).

Community colleges may be harming the career prospects of their students by training them to be regimented, disciplined, polite and quiet Futurist **Karen Fraser** told the Metro College Support Staff Conference at Casa Loma in late May. "What we want now are people who speak up and question and push the system," she said. More than 330 staff from eight community colleges attended the one-day conference.

St. James math and physics instructor **Ishwar Dean** has been appointed Chairman of the Education Division of the Canadian Association of Physicists. It's the first time a community college teacher has held the post. Dean says the Association will be asking provincial governments across the country to put more emphasis on physics instruction in high schools.

If you recognized the backdrop for the public debate on the June 23 edition of the CBC's *Journal* as Casa Loma — you were right. Host **Barbara Frum** moderated a debate on the doctor's strike

in the auditorium at 160 Kendal Ave.

Speakers at the June 10 retirement dinner for **Ken MacLennan** included **Marvin Gerstein**, Chairperson of the Board of Governors, President **Doug Light**; **Cliff Lloyd**, Past-President of George Brown, and **Gordon Wragg**; Past-President of the Provincial Institute of Trades, and Humber College.

The Personnel Department has told us of the following staff changes:

New support staff appointments include **Albert Buchannan** in Computer

Services at 146 Kendal Ave, **Vittorio Conto** and **Tony Cordeiro** in the Caretaking Department at Casa Loma, **Audrey DeRozario** and **Micheal Trudell** in the Futures Program staff at St. James and **Frances Fife**, **Manon Milhomme**, and **Sudha Papirozath** in the Industrial Training Division at St. James.

Internal transfers include: **James Barron**, who has left a position with the Casa Loma print shop for one with Casa Loma Campus Manager's Office; **Susan Jenney**, who has left a position with Student Services for one with the Futures program, **Joan McKay-Weakley**, who has left a support position with the Health Sciences Division at Casa Loma for a position with the Futures program, and **Hazel Pearce**, who has left a position with the Real Estate Program in the Industrial Training Division for a position with the Futures program.

Retiring from a position with the Caretaking Department at Casa Loma is **Stefan Kuszil**.

Leaving the College are **Don Berteit**, and **Marjory Jenkins**.

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